

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

IGA-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /078 W

-----191318Z 094011 /43

R 190905Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7247

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 0269

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NP UR

SUBJ: SOVIET UNION TO PROVIDE GRANT ASSISTANCE

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR UDUMYAN ANNOUNCED JANUARY 18 THAT USSR WILL SHORTLY PROVIDE NEPAL \$800,000 WORTH OF ROAD BUILDING EQUIPMENT AS GRANT ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO SAID THAT USSR WAS READY TO INCREASE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING IN SOVIET UNION FROM 5 TO 10 PER YEAR. UDUMYAN ANNOUNCED THAT UNDER TERMS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT SIGNED AT THE TIME KING'S MOSCOW VISIT LAST FALL USSR WOULD BE SENDING A TEAM TO UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON CONSTRUCTION OF PAPER, PHARMACEUTICAL AND GLUCOSE FACTORIES.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT SOVIETS ARE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE NEW AID PROJECTS IN NEPAL. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR STOPPED SHORT OF DEFINING WHAT RUSSIAN ROLE WOULD BE AFTER FEASIBILITY STUDIES HAD BEEN COMPLETED, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THEY WILL PROVIDE LONG-TERM LOAN FOR CONSTRUCTION COSTS OF THREE FACILITIES. AS FOR INCREASE IN NUMBER OF STIPENDS FOR STUDY, THIS MAY NOT COME TO PASS,
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SINCE HMG CONTINUES TO RESIST RUSSIAN EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY AND CHOOSE CANDIDATES FOR STUDY IN USSR. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTEDLY TOLD SOVIETS THAT IN FUTURE THEY WILL SELECT CANDIDATES WITHOUT INPUT FROM EMBASSY, AND ARRANGEMENT WHICH MAY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO RUSSIANS. THERE ARE CURRENTLY OVER 400 NEPALIS STUDYING IN SOVIET UNION, AND SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE

EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SUCH A LARGE NUMBER. NONETHELESS,
AMBASSADOR UDUMYAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT IS WELCOME NEWS, ESPECIALLY TO
THE PALACE, WHICH HAD BEEN CRITICIZED FOR NOT OBTAINING FIRM
AGREEMENTS ON AID DURING MOSCOW VISIT.
EAVES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, GRANTS, HIGHWAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KATHMA00269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770019-1213
Format: TEL
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770138/aaaabgxa.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0befa2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3561380
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET UNION TO PROVIDE GRANT ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PFOR, NP, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0befa2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009